

I am in 100% agreement with the NVEC petition (RM-10787) for the elimination Element 1 morse proficiency from amateur radio testing requirements.

As stated in the petition, technology has greatly changed modes of operation for the radio amateur and treaty obligations with WARC 2003 have eliminated the requirement for demonstrating morse proficiency in the HF bands.

At one time morse was a chief requirement mode in operating an amateur station. Morse proficiency is now just one of many operator modes – such as voice, various digital modes, SSTV, RTTY etc.

One could compare this to the evolution of the automobile with a similar timeline. Invented at around the same period, the mode of controlling a car was the manual transmission (morse). Improvements were made to this mode, but eventually the automatic transmission (voice AM) was invented and improvements through the years (other modes SSB/Packet etc.) were made. Today we do not require drivers to demonstrate proficiency in operating an automobile. In fact if we did, this requirement would present a barrier to some in obtaining a drivers license, just like morse proficiency presents a barrier to higher class of license to the radio amateur.

I am in favor of keeping other examination requirements the same. Demonstration of improved skills via testing should be continued and rewarded by increased operating privileges.

As a number of countries (UK, Austria, Norway, New Zealand and others) have already unilaterally eliminated morse proficiency, I support a quick process as suggested by the NVEC petition.

Sincerely,

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